

JOSEPH HOLMES ALLEN.

Senator from the Fiftieth district, composed of the counties of Pocahontas, Buena Vista and Humboldt, was born in Marshall county, Iowa, November 12, 1870, of American-born parents. He resided upon his father's farm until he was thirteen years old. His education was acquired in the country schools of Marshall county and in the Marshalltown high school, graduating from the latter institution in 1889. During the years 1889 and 1891 engaged in real estate, banking and abstract work with his father and brothers at Laurens and Pocahontas, studying law as the opportunity presented. In 1891 entered the state university at Iowa City and by combining the collegiate and law courses and doing extra work was enabled to graduate from the two departments in 1895. While at the university he took a prominent part in the work of the literary societies and was editor-in-chief of the junior annual of his class. After graduation located at Laurens for the practice of law. When the Spanish-American war was declared in 1898 formed a company at Laurens, but when it became evident that it would be impossible to enter the service as a distinct organization, he, with eleven others of the company, enlisted as privates in Company F, Forty-ninth Iowa Volunteer Infantry. Remained with the regiment until it returned from Cuba. Was elected member of the board of regents of the state university in 1902, and resigned from the same to take his seat in the senate in 1907. Elected senator in 1906 and re-elected in 1910 and 1914. A republican in politics.



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